

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A song data reproduction apparatus comprising:

a storage section that stores song data composed of performance data and order information corresponding to the performance data, the performance data representing a content of a music performance and containing reproduction limiting information for limiting a reproduction state of the content of the music performance, ~~the reproduction limiting information specifying a portion of the content to not be reproduced when the music performance is to be reproduced,~~ the order information indicating at least either of a purchase or a preview associated to a usage right of the content of the music performance;

a usage right identification section that refers to the order information of the song data containing the performance data to be reproduced, for identifying the usage right of the content of the music performance in terms of the purchase or preview;

a limiting information read section that reads the reproduction limiting information from the performance data when the identified usage right indicates the preview; and

a reproduction control section that ~~controls the reproduction state of the content of the music performance in accordance with the read reproduction limiting information~~ specifies a portion of the performance according to the read reproduction limiting information, then reproduces only the specified portion of the performance data, and does not reproduce other portions of the content of the performance data than the specified portion.

Claim 2 (original): The song data reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reproduction limiting information contains information for limiting a reproduction time of the music performance, so that the reproduction control section limits the reproduction time of the music performance in accordance with the read reproduction limiting information.

Claim 3 (original): The song data reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reproduction limiting information contains information for specifying a channel among a plurality of channels usable for reproducing the music performance, so that the reproduction control section uses only the specified channel for reproducing the music performance in accordance with the read reproduction limiting information.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A song data reproduction method executable by a song data reproduction apparatus having a processor and a storage for storing song data composed of performance data and order information corresponding to the performance data, the performance data representing a content of a music performance and containing reproduction limiting information for limiting a reproduction state of the content of the music performance, ~~the reproduction limiting information specifying a portion of the content to not be reproduced when the music performance is to be reproduced~~, the order information indicating at least either of a purchase or a preview associated to a usage right of the content of the music performance, the method comprising the steps of:

referring to the order information in the song data containing the performance data to be reproduced, for identifying the usage right of the content of the music performance in terms of the purchase or preview;

reading the reproduction limiting information from the performance data when the identified usage right indicates the preview; and

~~controlling the reproduction state of the content of the music performance in accordance with the read reproduction limiting information~~

specifying a portion of the performance data according to the read reproduction limiting information; and

reproducing only the specified portion of the performance data and not reproducing other portions of the content of the performance data than the specified portion.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the reproduction limiting information contains information for limiting a reproduction time of the music performance, so that the reproduction control step limits the reproduction time of the music performance in accordance with the read reproduction limiting information.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the reproduction limiting information contains information for specifying a channel among a plurality of channels usable for reproducing the music performance, so that the reproduction control step uses only the specified channel for reproducing the music performance in accordance with the read reproduction limiting information.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A song data recording medium for recording song data composed of performance data and order information corresponding to the performance data, the performance data representing a content of a music performance and containing reproduction limiting information for limiting a reproduction state of the content of the music performance, ~~the reproduction limiting information specifying a portion of the content not to be reproduced when the music performance is to be reproduced,~~ the order information indicating at least either of a purchase or a preview associated to a usage right of the content of the music performance, wherein the medium is readable by a computer to perform the steps comprising:

referring to the order information in the song data containing the performance data to be reproduced, for identifying the usage right of the content of the music performance in terms of the purchase or preview;

reading the reproduction limiting information from the performance data when the identified usage right indicates the preview; and

~~controlling the reproduction state of the content of the music performance in accordance with the read reproduction limiting information~~

specifying a portion of the performance data according to the read reproduction limiting information; and

reproducing only the specified portion of the performance data and not reproducing other portions of the content of the performance data than the specified portion.

Claim 10 (original): The song data recording medium according to claim 9, wherein the reproduction limiting information contains information for limiting a reproduction time of the music performance, whereby the song data reproduction apparatus limits the reproduction time of the music performance in accordance with the read reproduction limiting information.

Claim 11 (original): The song data recording medium according to claim 9, wherein the reproduction limiting information contains information for specifying a channel among a plurality of channels usable for reproducing the music performance, whereby the song data reproduction apparatus uses only the specified channel for reproducing the music performance in accordance with the read reproduction limiting information.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): A server apparatus connectable to a user terminal through a communication network, comprising:

a receiving section that receives an order for requesting a review of a song from the user terminal through the communication network; and

a transmitting section that transmits data of the song to the user terminal through the communication network, wherein

the data of the song comprises performance data and order information corresponding to the performance data, the performance data representing a content of a music performance of the song and containing reproduction limiting information for limiting a reproduction state of the content of the music performance, the reproduction limiting information specifying a portion of the content not to be reproduced when the music performance is to be reproduced, the order information indicating that a usage right of the content of the music performance is limited to the preview,

thereby enabling the user terminal to recognize from the order information that the usage right of the content of the music performance is limited to the preview, and enabling the user terminal to control the reproduction state of the content of the music performance in accordance with the reproduction limiting information.

Claim 14 (original): The server apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the receiving section receives another order for requesting a license of the song to remove limitation of the reproduction of the music performance, and the transmitting section transmits an updated order information indicating that the usage right of the content of the music performance is a purchase of the song, thereby enabling the user terminal to recognize from the updated order information that the usage right of the content of the music performance is switched to the purchase, and enabling the user terminal to reproduce the music performance without any limitation under the license.

Claim 15 (original): The server apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the reproduction limiting information contains at least one of information for limiting a reproduction time of the music performance, information for limiting a plurality of channels usable for reproducing the music performance, and information for limiting various functions available for reproducing the music performance.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The song data reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the storage section stores order information indicating a level of the preview associated to one or more levels of the usage right, and stores the reproduction limiting information specifying one or more conditions of limiting the reproduction state of the content of the music performance in correspondence to one or more levels of the preview;

the limiting information read section reads one of the conditions of limiting the reproduction state specified by the reproduction limiting information from the performance data in correspondence to the level of the preview indicated by the order information; and

the reproduction control section controls the reproduction state of the content of the music performance in accordance with the read condition specified by the reproduction limiting information.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the storage stores order information indicating a level of the preview associated to one or more levels of the usage right, and stores the reproduction limiting information specifying one or more conditions of limiting the reproduction state of the content of the music performance in correspondence to one or more levels of the preview;

said step of reading comprises reading one of the conditions of limiting the reproduction state specified by the reproduction limiting information from the performance data in correspondence to the level of the preview indicated by the order information; and

said step of controlling comprises controlling the reproduction state of the content of the music performance in accordance with the read condition specified by the reproduction limiting information.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The medium according to claim 9, wherein the medium stores order information indicating a level of the preview associated to one or more levels of the usage right, and stores the reproduction limiting information specifying one or more conditions of limiting the reproduction state of the content of the music performance in correspondence to one or more levels of the preview; and wherein

said step of reading comprises reading one of the conditions of limiting the reproduction state specified by the reproduction limiting information from the performance data in correspondence to the level of the preview indicated by the order information; and

said step of controlling comprises controlling the reproduction state of the content of the music performance in accordance with the read condition specified by the reproduction limiting information.

Claim 19 (new): A song data reproduction apparatus comprising:

a storage section that stores song data composed of performance data and order information corresponding to the performance data, the performance data representing a content of a music performance and containing reproduction limiting information for limiting a reproduction state of the music performance where a plurality of reproduction functions are available in reproducing of the performance data, the order information indicating at least either of a purchase or a preview associated to a usage right of the content of the music performance;

a usage right identification section that refers to the order information of the song data containing the performance data to be reproduced, for identifying the usage right of the content of the music performance in terms of the purchase or preview;

a limiting information read section that reads the reproduction limiting information from the performance data when the identified usage right indicates the preview; and

a reproduction control section that specifies one or more of the plurality of the reproduction functions according to the read reproduction limiting information, then enables only the specified reproduction functions for reproducing the performance data and disables other reproduction functions than the specified reproduction function.